

AGENDA



Tonight's Objective:

Provide an update and obtain feedback from the Board on next steps for establishing a Stormwater Utility

- **Introductions**
- **Ayer's Stormwater Program**
- **History & Past Efforts**
- **Why a Stormwater Utility?**
- **Local & Regional Comparison**
- **Impervious Area**
- **Work to Date**
- **Next Steps**
- **Discussion**

AYER'S STORMWATER PROGRAM



- **Since 2003, Ayer's Stormwater Management Program has included:**
 - Public Education and Outreach
 - Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (i.e., water quality testing of the drain to find pollution)
 - Local Oversight of Construction Sites
 - Local Permitting for New Development and Redevelopment to Control Stormwater Runoff
 - Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention in Municipal Operations (e.g., system inspection and maintenance, street sweeping, catch basin cleaning)
- **Learn more at our website:**
<https://www.ayer.ma.us/stormwater-department>



My Clean Water Act



AYER'S STORMWATER UTILITY HISTORY



- **2011**

- Town Meeting approves Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund (Article 31), funding mechanism still needs to be developed

- **2014-2015**

- Stormwater Utility Committee develops funding mechanism, includes public meetings and input from stakeholders
- Proposed funding mechanism presented to Select Board, SB votes to fund stormwater through general fund, Town Meeting subsequently votes to eliminate the Fund

- **Why are we here?**

- 2019: DPW presents stormwater updates to Select Board, Board supports revisiting the stormwater utility
- 2020: Capital funds voted at Town Meeting for consultant support to revisit stormwater utility
- 2021-2022: Stormwater Asset Management Plan developed
- 2023: DPW contracts with Tighe and Bond to reevaluate stormwater utility

WHY A STORMWATER UTILITY?

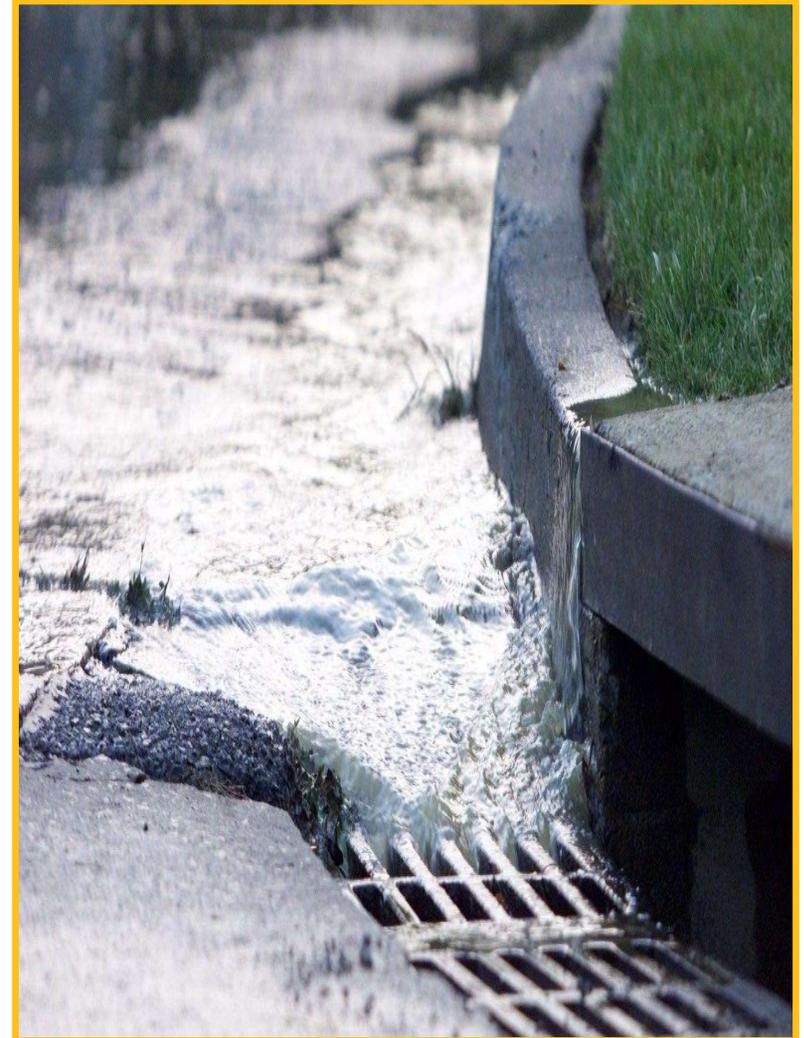


Sustainable, Long-Term Funding to Meet Program Goals

- **Asset Management Plan**
 - Replacement value of Ayer's drainage system is over \$90 Million
- **Small MS4 General Permit**
 - Expect more stringent requirements in the new Permit, expected for public comment this year

Benefits of a Stormwater Fee

- **Stable:** Dedicated Revenue Source for Financial Sustainability
- **Equitable & Fair:** Based on Stormwater Impact vs. Property Value (Taxes). Includes tax-exempt properties.
- **Flexible:** Utility can pay for all aspects of the program
- **Credit Policy:** Ability to provide a financial incentive for stormwater improvements on private property



REGIONAL STORMWATER UTILITIES



- Not a New Concept: ~2,000 stormwater utilities in the U.S.
- 20+ in MA as of December 2022
- Must be a clear nexus among Program Cost of Service, User Fees, and Customer Benefits
- Impervious area is the most commonly used method to assess stormwater fees in the U.S.



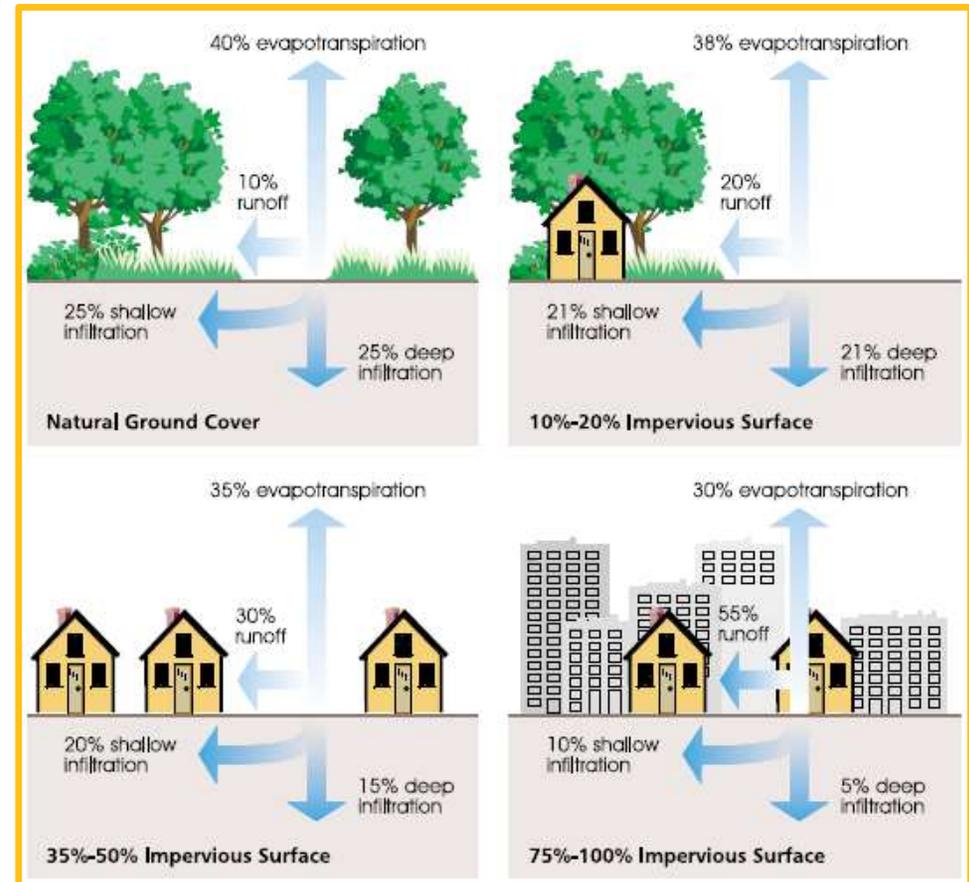
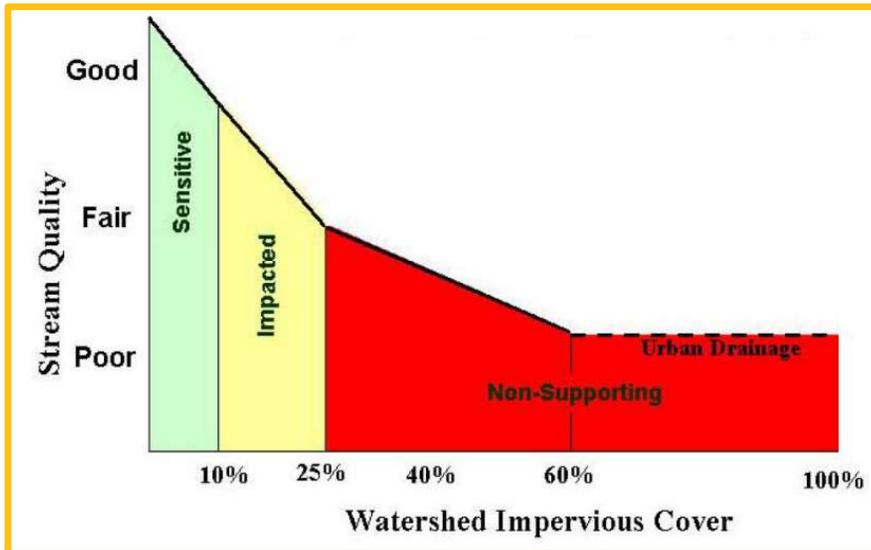
IMPERVIOUS AREA AS BASIS OF FEE



Impervious Surfaces

Impervious surface area is the most commonly used metric across the United States to charge for costs related to stormwater services. The more impervious area on a property, the more stormwater the property generates and the greater the demand for Town stormwater services.

Ayer's Impervious Area is about 17%



Center for Watershed Protection. 2003. [Impacts of Impervious Cover on Aquatic Systems: Watershed Protection Research Monograph](#). Center for Watershed Protection, Ellicott City, MD. Pages 1-158

WORK TO DATE IN AYER



Example Properties: Single Family Residential (SFR)

- 1 ERU in Ayer is equivalent to 3,200 sq. ft of Impervious Area

Property: 2 Pheasant Circle

IA: 3,195 Square Feet

ERU = 1



WORK TO DATE IN AYER

Example Properties: Non-SFR



Property: 7 Faulkner Street – St. Andrews’s Church
IA: 20,316 Square Feet
ERU = 7

- Parcel Boundary
- [Blue square icon]
- Nearmap Impervious Area
- [Light blue square icon]



Property: 1 Longview Circle – The Willows Condos
IA: 294,953 Square Feet
ERU = 93



EXAMPLE LOCAL STORMWATER FEE STRUCTURES



	<u>Newton</u>	<u>Bellingham</u>	<u>Milton</u>	<u>Westford</u>
<u>Date Adopted</u>	2006	2020	2016	2019
<u>ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit)</u>	N/A	3,025 ft ² IA	N/A	3,500 ft ² IA
<u>SFR Fee</u>	\$100/year Flat Fee	\$96/year Flat Fee for SFR & Condos.	\$40-\$520/year 4 Tiers	\$37.50-\$150/year 5 Tiers
<u>Other Residential</u>	\$100/year Flat fee for 2-4 Unit Res	\$192/year Flat fee 2-3 family	\$2.32 per 100 ft ² IA	\$75/ERU
<u>Large Res, Commercial, Industrial, Tax Exempt</u>	\$0.047 per ft ² IA Minimum \$150/year	\$96/ERU	\$2.32 per 100 ft ² IA	\$75/ERU



NEXT STEPS & TIMELINE

- **Convene an Advisory Group**
 - First meeting in July and meet regularly throughout the process
- **Refine Budget Projections**
- **Present Rate Structure Alternatives for Discussion**
- **Town Counsel Guidance**
 - Bylaws, Regulations & Town Warrant
- **Outreach Plan & Schedule**
 - Develop & distribute educational materials
 - Stakeholder Workshop
 - Additional Meetings with the Select Board
- **Adoption: Special Town Meeting 2023 or Annual Town Meeting 2024**
- **Develop Credit Policy & Abatements**

Questions & Discussion

- What is the Board's opinion on the process and timeline?
- All suggestions, questions and concerns welcome

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